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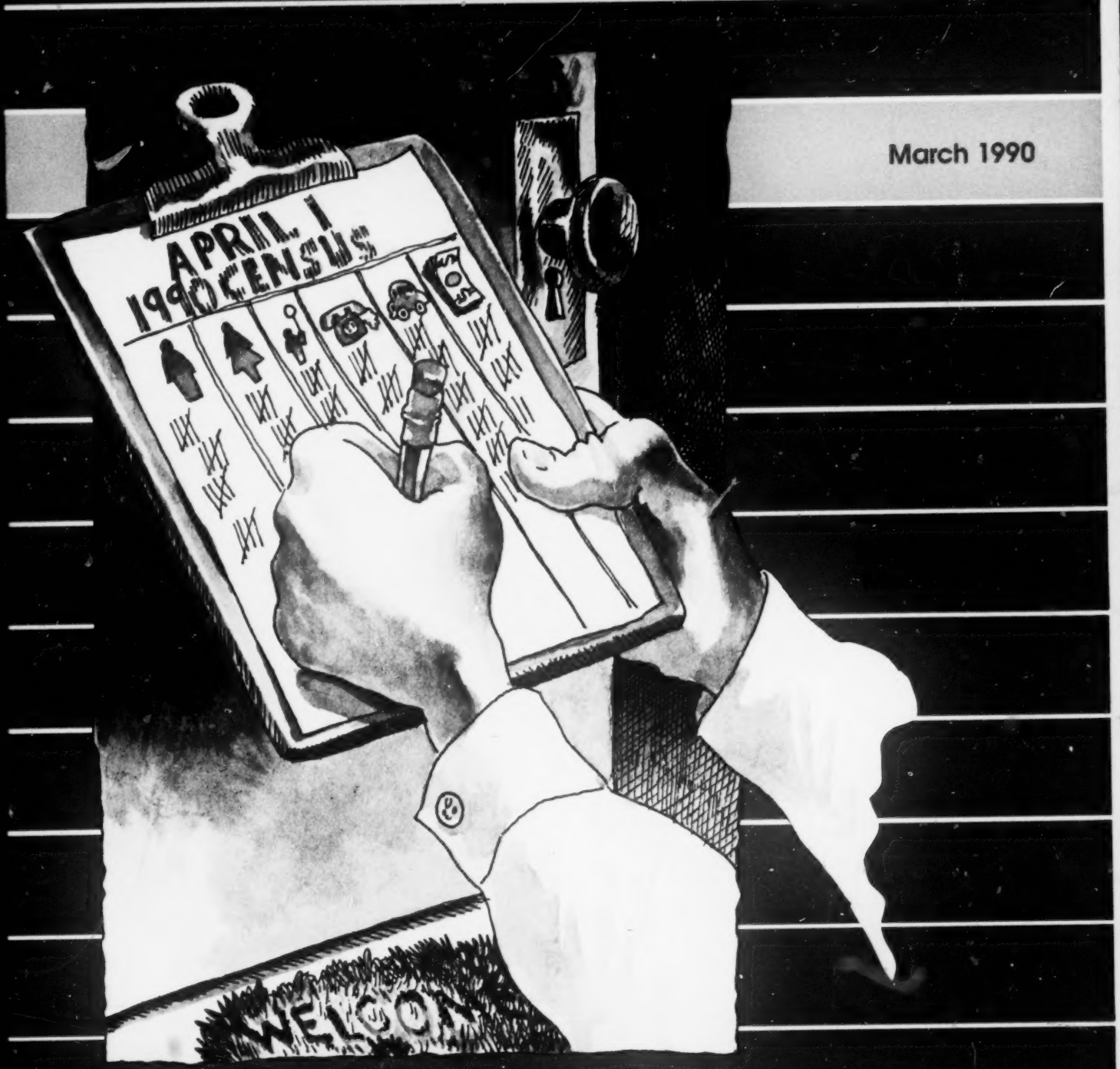
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



March 1990

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

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Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with economic-related issues of Alaska. Opinions and analyses expressed by guest authors may not be consistent with those of the Alaska Department of Labor.

We welcome contributions on current economic issues from our readers. For a copy of our editorial policy contact the Editor, *Alaska Economic Trends*, Alaska Department of Labor, P.O. Box 25501, Juneau, Alaska 99802-5501, Telephone: (907) 465-4500. Telefax: (907) 465-2101.

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The 1990 Census- It's Here!

by Kathryn Lizik

The 1990 Census, the 21st in our nation's history, will be larger and more complex than any of the previous 20. Required by the Constitution, the census has been a part of American life since the administration of President George Washington. The 21st census will take a snapshot of America's estimated 250 million people and is the single most comprehensive source of information about who we are, where we are, and how we live.

The 1990 Census will be Alaska's 13th. Alaska was not enumerated prior to 1867, the year it was purchased from Russia.

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Kathryn Lizik is a labor economist employed with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. She is based in Juneau.

Congressional Apportionment- Mandate for a Decennial Census

Article 1, Section 2, of the United States Constitution mandates a census every ten years to apportion elected representatives among the states. The Census Bureau both conducts the census and calculates the apportionment based on the census results. Apportionment determines how many congressional representatives each state gets, and occurs after each census. Due to Alaska's small population size, our congressional representation will not change with this census.

1990 CENSUS

Alaska's Election Districts to be Redrawn Following the Census

While there will be no change in Alaska's national representation following the census, local politics will be reshaped. Alaska will redefine its legislative districts in 1991 based on the new population figures from the 1990 Census. This process is called redistricting. Redistricting determines the boundaries of the congressional and legislative districts for the state. To facilitate redistricting, the Census Bureau is required by law to submit the state's population totals to Alaska's governor no later than April 1, 1991.

Alaska's Constitution outlines the state's redistricting process. It requires the establishment of a governor-appointed reapportionment board, and delineates the time lines by which the redistricting must be completed.

Census Bureau will Employ Alaskans for The Big Count

The Census Bureau opened a Census District Office in Anchorage over a year

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Kathryn Lizik • Alaska State Data Center • (907) 465-4500

For further information on specific 1990 census operations, please contact:

Debbie Randal • Anchorage District Census Office (907) 271-4275

For further assistance on census recruiting, please contact any Alaska Employment Service Office or:

Gillian Havrilla • Anchorage District Office (907) 271-4268

ago to begin preparing for the 1990 Census in Alaska. The office staff spent months interviewing and compiling lists of eligible people across the state who will be hired on as census team leaders, crew leaders and enumerators. This census will emphasize the use of locally selected census takers for each community. Alaska Employment Service offices have been helping by advertising the temporary positions and referring interested job seekers to the Anchorage office. There will continue to be a need for qualified workers throughout the census operation. It is anticipated that at the height of enumeration, during March and April of 1990, over 1,250 Alaskans will be working for the Census Bureau.

Two income determination waivers were enacted during 1989 to help expand the eligible pool of applicants for temporary census work. The first, based on federal legislation, will allow postal, military, and federal retirees to accept temporary census jobs without loss of retirement pay or benefits. The second is a waiver requested by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It allows recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to engage in temporary census work without having their income eligibility or benefits altered. Both will provide temporary job opportunities to individuals who might not otherwise participate due to income considerations.

First Enumeration Begins in Mid-February

While Census Day is officially April 1, 1990, Alaska will be the first state to have its people enumerated. Remote areas of Alaska, grouped into four regional "waves", will begin the operation in mid-February. Census takers, going door to door, will fill out the forms with each household. The early enumeration is necessary to avoid the difficulties caused by "breakup". To reach most of the outlying areas, small planes, boats, snowmobiles, four-wheel drive vehicles, and dog sleds will be used.

The 1990 Census of Alaska's boroughs and cities will more closely match the census operation in the remainder of the U.S. Inhabitants of these areas will receive census questionnaires in the mail the last week of March. For Anchorage and Fairbanks City households, the Census Bureau is requesting the completed questionnaire be mailed back as close to Census Day as possible. In the other cities, census enumerators will collect the questionnaires by going door to door the first week of April. Households that do not respond will be visited by follow-up workers later in April, May and June.

Special Place Group Quarters Will Also Be Enumerated

Not all of Alaska's population resides in housing units. There is an assortment of group quarters structures which offer room and board to both institutional and noninstitutional occupants. Each of these group quarters locations have been identified through the help of local governments. Special census enumerators with Individual Census Reports (ICRs) will visit these locations and administer the census.

Both land-based military personnel and the crews of military vessels will be enumerated with the assistance of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard. People in on-base housing units will be enumerated by mail or the personal interview procedure. For the crews of military vessels, a project officer will distribute and collect the shipboard census reports.

Offshore and land-based fish processing operations, penal institutions, timber harvesting camps, campgrounds, dormitories, harbors, hospitals, and senior citizen homes are all examples of sites which will participate in the special place enumeration.

A Special Night to Count the Nation's Homeless

Successful enumeration of Alaska's growing homeless population will be a major challenge of the census taking process. To do this, the Census Bureau has identified a one-night operation called "Shelter and Street Night Enumeration" for March 20, 1990. During this special evening of enumeration, census takers will visit homeless shelters and other places not intended for habitation in order to get a count of Alaska's homeless population. Lists of emergency shelter and other locations where homeless persons tend to stay or congregate at night were earlier provided to the Census Bureau by the state's major cities.

Basic Form Will Ask 14 Questions

All households will answer 14 basic questions on the "short" form that can be filled out in a few minutes. The form asks about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, marital status, whether you rent or own your residence, and the number of rooms.

About one out of six households in the larger cities and one out of two in cities with populations less than 2,500 and all Alaska Native Villages will receive a longer form. Referred to as the sample questionnaire, the longer form asks an additional 45 questions about ancestry, education, income, disability, labor force participation, type of housing, utilities. It should take 45 minutes to an hour to fill out.

Census officials spent years debating what questions to ask in this census. The final version is the result of considering government agency needs, repeating as many questions as possible to maintain consistent statistics, and limiting the number of questions so as not to burden households with excessive paperwork. The process required close scrutiny and approval by Congress of both the questionnaire's general topics and specific questions.

Some of the questions on the 1990 form are new, others questions were changed or expanded. In some cases questions that appeared in 1980 were dropped from the questionnaires. The new questions will seek information on condominium and mobile home fees, home equity loans, pension income, physical disabilities and cohabiting couples.

Your Answers are Confidential

The census questionnaire does not ask for an individual's Social Security number. The only reason names and addresses are asked is to make sure no one is missed or counted more than once.

Census Bureau employees take an oath to keep individual answers to the questionnaire confidential. An employee breaking this confidence is subject to severe penalties up to $5,000 in fines and five years imprisonment. Furthermore, Title 13 of the U.S. Code prevents any agency — Immigration, the FBI, the IRS, the courts, the military, or welfare agencies — from getting any specific information about any person from a census form. Only census answers go into computer records. Names and addresses are not part of the computer file. In fact, personal information from the 1990 Census will be locked up for 72 years until the year 2062.

What Happens to Your Answers?

Once the Census Bureau has collected all the completed forms either by mail or census takers, the answers from the questionnaire are then combined to produce statistical totals for various geographic areas. It is these combined numbers, not personal answers, that are published and put to thousands of uses.

Not Being Counted Can Cost You Money

For a number of reasons, about 3.5% of Alaska's population was not counted in the last census. An undercount contributes to flawed decisions, a loss of revenue and lower funding for community programs. Over the years, hundreds of federal programs have been developed that disperse money and projects on the basis of census statistics. Welfare programs and highway funds, job training and mass transit projects, education and urban renewal all depend on the census for raw data. Often, those who could benefit most are those who are shortchanged when there's an undercount.

Census Bureau Conducting Programs to Battle Undercount & Promote Accuracy

To counteract the conditions which often contribute to an undercount, the Census Bureau has developed programs to promote the 1990 Census as well as review its accuracy. Much of this improvement is being linked to a greater involvement by local communities. These programs include:

The Census Education Project – Promotes awareness by providing elementary and secondary educators with teaching materials that will expose students and their families to the importance of the census.

Complete Count Program – Local communities and officials across the state have been invited by the Census Bureau to publicize the importance of the 1990 Census and encourage cooperation with answering the census questionnaire.

The Local Review Program – Will improve the census through local government review of their preliminary housing unit counts and group quarters populations. Most of Alaska's major cities will complete their review during the fall of 1990. Rural places will conduct their local review immediately following the completion of the census in their area during February and March.

The Boundary and Annexation Survey – Collected legal boundary information from Alaska's incorporated places during 1989. Accurate census information for Alaskan cities is highly dependent on correct city and borough boundaries. Local governments were asked to review computer generated Census Bureau maps and certify that the boundaries reflected the cities' legal corporate limits.

The Census Awareness and Products Program – Employed specific strategies to reduce past undercounts of hard-to-enumerate populations. Community awareness specialists have been bringing the bureau's Alaska Native Village Liaison Program to 218 native communities scattered throughout the state.

TIGER- Integrating Census Data with Computer Mapping

The 1990 Census will be technologically advanced over 1980 due to the creation of TIGER. Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing, TIGER is a digital street map of the country. The TIGER will be the system responsible for producing the computer generated maps for the census enumeration process. In 1980 the enumeration maps were hand drawn.

But TIGER will provide more than just enumerator maps. Since it contains data for political and statistical boundaries, features such as roads, rivers, railroads, and feature names and geographic codes, TIGER will be the backbone of countless operations. The TIGER database in conjunction with a geographic information system (GIS) will be able to produce geographic and thematic maps at any scale. It will allow the integration of census population and social characteristics data with any geographic or statistical area in the file. And it will allow the countless redistricting scenarios necessary for compiling a successful redistricting operation.

Data Products will be Released As they Become Available

Due to the discontinuation of preliminary releases coupled with improved technological processing, basic population and housing information (100% data) should be available six months earlier than it was after the 1980 Census. Sample data will follow in early 1992. Sample data will include tables on such topics as education, disability, ability to speak English, labor force status, income, value or rent of the housing unit, and other detailed characteristics.

Traditionally, census information has been released in three forms: publications, computer tapes, and microfiche. Two new forms are expected for 1990, compact laser disks and, to a lesser degree, on-line information systems. The Alaska State Data Center will be the initial recipient of all census data as it is released, and will be reformatting much of the computer tape information into easier to use reports, both in paper or on diskette.

Table 1

Kenai Peninsula Borough Employment by Industry 1987-1989

	1987 Annual Average	1988 Annual Average	Percent Change 1987-1988	6 Month Average 1988	6 Month Average 1989	Percent Change 1988-1989
Nonag. Wage & Salary	10,806	11,090	2.6%	10,160	12,420	22.2%
Mining	758	839	10.7	808	788	-2.5
Construction	642	619	-3.6	478	753	57.5
Manufacturing	1,320	1,486	12.6	1,064	1,430	34.4
Food & Kindred Products	783	948	21.1	536	777	45.0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	569	622	9.3	579	1,154	99.3
Trade	2,264	2,179	-3.8	2,137	2,205	3.2
Wholesale	372	397	6.7	385	378	-1.8
Retail	1,892	1,783	-5.8	1,752	1,827	4.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	299	257	-14.0	251	262	4.4
Services & Misc.	2,003	2,069	3.3	1,870	2,406	28.7
Government	2,951	3,019	2.3	2,973	3,422	15.1
Federal	216	248	14.8	224	249	11.2
State	787	912	15.9	831	1,013	21.9
Local	1,948	1,859	-4.6	1,918	2,160	12.6

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 2

Kenai Peninsula Borough Taxable Sales Figures 1987-1989

	1987 Annual Sales (millions)	1988 Annual Sales (millions)	Percent Change 1987-88	9 Mo. Avg. '88 (millions)	9 Mo. Avg. '89 (millions)	Percent Change 1988-89
Borough	$328.3	$342.6	4.4%	$265.3	$300.1	13.1%
Kenai	68.8	74.7	8.7	56.2	58.2	3.5
Soldotna	80.0	81.4	1.7	62.2	66.0	6.0
Homer	53.8	54.7	1.6	43.7	53.7	22.8
Seward	27.3	30.0	9.6	24.1	31.9	32.4
Balance	98.3	101.7	3.6	78.9	90.3	14.4

Source: Kenai Peninsula Borough; total may not add due to rounding.

added another catcher/processor to its fleet of two boats in 1989. As a result of these expansions and healthy harvests fish processing employment on the Peninsula grew 21% in 1988 and 45% during the first half of 1989. (See Table 1 and Figure 4.)

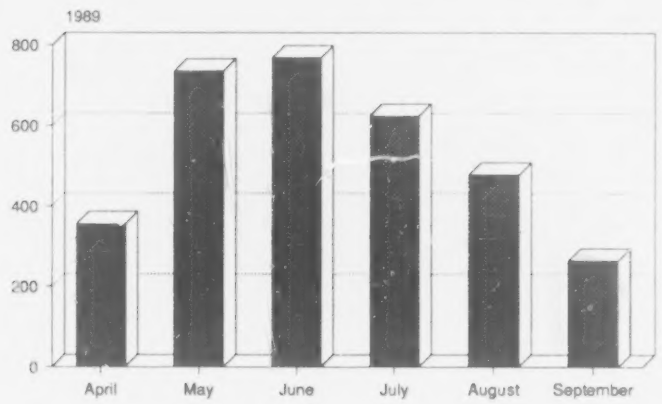
The Peninsula's Oil Industry Makes a Comeback

By 1988 the Peninsula's oil industry rebounded from its low of 758 jobs in 1987. Additional activity on the North Slope and an increase in exploration activity on the Peninsula is responsible for this recovery.

Presently there is concern regarding the fate of the Drift River oil storage facility on the west side of Cook Inlet. Oil production of ten offshore oil platforms was temporarily interrupted because of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Redoubt. The oil from these ten platforms is stored at the facility before it is shipped out by oil tankers. If the facility were shut down for an extended length of time it could affect the

Figure 2

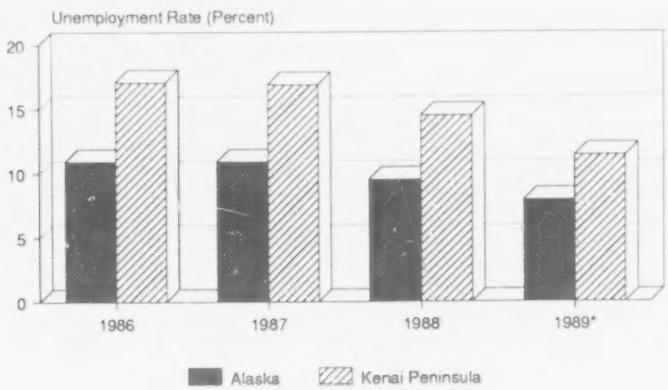
Oil Spill Workers On the Kenai Peninsula*



*VECO & Norcon workers
Source: VECO Inc.

Figure 3

Unemployment Rates 1986-1989 Alaska & Kenai Peninsula



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

employment of more than 500 workers in the Peninsula's oil industry. Oil production has resumed and its future will be determined by volcanic activity.

Employment in the refining/ manufacturing side of the oil and gas industry has remained stable the past two years. This sector was one of the Peninsula's early international exporters and is the state's only oil and gas exporter to date. Exports include urea and ammonia (used for fertilizer), liquified natural gas (LNG), and refined petroleum products. In the short-term, employment in this industry is expected to remain stable. Recently Tesoro announced they were going to build a new multi-million dollar dock at their refinery site. There is a possibility that additional exports may occur in the future. Korean interests are presently considering importing LNG from the Kenai Peninsula.

Tourism Remains Healthy

The oil spill initially sent a wave of apprehension through the Peninsula's tourist industry. However, as the season got underway most concerns evaporated as operators began enjoying another strong visitor season.

Although Alaska Department of Labor figures do not include a tourism category, it appears the Peninsula's tourist industry has remained healthy. Employment in the service industry is one of the major beneficiaries of tourism, and jobs in this industry grew substantially during 1989. Other statistics such as visits to the Kenai Fjords National Park and dollars collected in sales taxes appear to corroborate these findings. (See Figure 1 and Table 2.) Because a majority of the Peninsula's visitors come from Anchorage, the rebound in Anchorage's economy and population has been good news for the area's tourist industry.

Indications are that many operators believe tourism on the Peninsula will remain healthy. Princess Tours is opening a new lodge at Cooper Landing on the Kenai River for the 1990 season, and the Alaska Railroad will be increasing the number of trains travelling from Anchorage to Seward. Kenai Fjord Tours of Seward recently purchased a new 150 passenger tour ship to augment its tour business. Some speculate that the number of visitors to the Kenai Fjords National Park could exceed 100,000 in a few years. And the King Oscar Motel of Kenai is planning to build a convention center with a 600 person capacity. There is also a growing initiative to develop foreign markets, especially in the Pacific Rim.

Handful of Projects Support Construction Industry

Construction activity on the Peninsula is lackluster at best. With the exception of Seward, residential and commercial

construction remains almost non-existent because of the over-built market. If not for the Bradley Lake hydroelectric project outside of Homer, (one of the largest construction projects in the state) the industry would show few signs of life. A few other public projects are breathing some life into this industry. The Kenai Peninsula Borough is building an $8 million elementary school in Seward; projects in Homer include a $4.1 million deep-water dock port and $14 million sewer project; reconstruction of the Steelhead offshore oil platform near Kenai is almost complete. However, no one is predicting a strong turnaround in this industry for the near future.

A New Timber Industry Gives The Economy An Extra Boost

Timber harvesting and processing are the latest diversification efforts on the Peninsula. Until 1988 almost all timber activity was limited to Southeast Alaska. Now the Kenai Peninsula is making some inroads into this industry.

Chugach Alaska Corp. has almost completed a $20 million state-of-the-art mill in Seward to produce dimensional lumber for the Pacific Rim and the local Alaska market. The project encompasses the three key economic elements mentioned earlier in this article -- diversification (because timber-related activity was largely limited to small operations), exports (because most of the products will be sent to the Pacific Rim), and value-added production (because much of the timber will be processed before export). In addition, a fourth economic development term applies to the project -- import substitution (because the mill will be supplying some of Alaska's lumber which is now imported). Chugach plans to employ a work force of 60, with the possibility of adding a second shift (and thereby almost doubling its workforce).

There are additional projects on the Peninsula timber scene: Klukwan Forest Products shipped Korean-bound round logs off the Homer dock for the first time this summer. Klukwan plans to ship more timber to the Pacific Rim in the future. Another timber firm, South Central Timber Development Inc., is planning to harvest trees from English Bay for export in 1990. And Cook Inlet Region Inc. just recently sold logging rights to 30,000 acres to Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Public Sector Gets A Boost From A New Prison

State government employment got a big boost when the prison in Seward opened in mid-1988. The prison employs approximately 200 state employees.

Local government employment levels were slower to rebound because declining property values continued to put a crimp on this sector's ability to expand. However, local government employment stabilized in 1988 and it appears most local governments are currently in relatively good financial shape. Some upward pressure on local government employment exists because school enrollment on the Peninsula began to climb again in 1989.

Federal government, a small employer on the Peninsula, grew partially as a result of an increase of 25 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) personnel at the Kenai Flight Center. The FAA is consolidating and by 1991 their presence at the center may double from its present size of 51.

Oil Spill Creates Economic Boomlet

Although the oil spill began in Prince William Sound, it spread to the Kenai Peninsula and beyond. As in Valdez, cleanup activity on the Peninsula created a temporary economic boomlet. Most of the cleanup activity was based out of Homer, Seward and the communities of Seldovia, English Bay and Port Graham on the south side of Kachemak Bay.

At its peak Exxon's contractors had more than a thousand workers on the cleanup effort on the Peninsula. Given the size of the Peninsula's work force, this increase created a large bulge in the area's employment picture. Employment during the second quarter of 1989 would not have grown the 28% without the cleanup effort.

In April, VECO, the prime cleanup contractor, began to hire workers for the cleanup effort on the Peninsula. Employment with VECO and its union subsidiary, Norcon, peaked at 623 in July. (See Figure 2.) VECO subcontracted with many small vessels, employing as many as 221 additional people during the peak month. VECO also hired contractors to clean vessels, work construction, provide security, operate the bird rescue center and other activities. In addition to the oil spill contractors' activity, an untold number of local businesses such as hotels, transportation companies, restaurants, stores, etc. hired extra help in response to cleanup activity. For many businesses, the cleanup meant a financial windfall.

A major labor shortage ensued because of the sheer number of workers hired, which was compounded by the high wages offered by the cleanup contractors. The services sector and fish processing employers felt the brunt of these shortages. A few businesses actually had to close their doors because of a lack of help. The unemployment rate on the Peninsula fell as low as 5.9% in August, the lowest recorded unemployment rate in 15 years (See Figure 3.)

In some respects, the economic impact of the cleanup effort was not altogether different from a large short-term construction project. One major difference, however, is the potential long term economic impact. At this point no one really knows what economic bearing the spill might have, particularly on the area's fishery and tourism industries. The effect on tourism will be difficult if not impossible to measure. As for the impact on fisheries, only time will tell.

Seward Becomes The Economic Star of The Peninsula

The oil revenue boom of the early 1980s basically skipped Seward. For many years Seward's employment picture remained largely unchanged. During the past 3 years Seward's economy has blossomed. Employment in Seward grew 37% from 1986 through the second quarter 1989, compared to 3.3% for the state (See Table 3 and Figure 4).

The biggest single boost to Seward's economy came when the Spring Creek prison opened in mid-1988. That act alone pushed Seward's employment up by 16%. And all this was happening

Table 3

Seward Employment by Industry 1987-1989

	1987 Annual Average	1988 Annual Average	Percent Change 1987-1988	6 Month Average 1988	6 Month Average 1989	Percent Change 1988-1989
Nonag. Wage & Salary	1,236	1,324	7.1%	1,252	1,793	43.2%
Construction	101	73	-27.7	68	54	-20.6
Manufacturing	157	164	4.5	156	298	91.0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	60	72	20.0	66	187	183.3
Trade	212	213	0.5	208	264	26.9
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	21	21	0.0	21	19	-9.5
Services & Misc.	265	251	-5.3	258	327	26.7
Government	420	530	26.2	475	644	35.6
Federal	37	45	21.6	42	42	0.0
State	208	311	49.5	258	404	56.6
Local	175	174	-0.6	176	199	13.1

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 4

Homer Employment by Industry 1987-1989

	1987 Annual Average	1988 Annual Average	Percent Change 1987-1988	6 Month Average 1988	6 Month Average 1989	Percent Change 1988-1989
Nonag. Wage & Salary	1,397	1,496	7.1%	1,370	1,824	33.1%
Construction	88	130	47.2	72	252	250.0
Manufacturing	115	163	41.6	127	181	42.5
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	159	196	23.3	184	281	52.7
Trade	337	312	-7.6	313	312	-0.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	57	56	-1.7	55	64	16.4
Services & Misc.	230	234	1.6	210	277	31.9
Government	411	406	-1.2	409	457	11.7
Federal	40	45	13.8	42	47	11.9
State	25	25	0.0	26	29	11.5
Local	347	336	-3.0	342	382	11.7

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

while tourism in Seward continued to expand. In response to the relatively newly established Kenai Fjords National Park (1980), Seward has found numerous new tourism opportunities to exploit.

Commercial fishing also grew as the salmon harvest improved and bottomfishing efforts expanded. As already mentioned, the Fishing Company of Alaska added a new boat to its fleet. Both of Seward's land-based fish processing plants, Seward Fisheries and Seward Marine Services, also expanded their operations in 1989. The oil spill also provided a big shot in the arm during the summer of 1989. And employment will get an additional boost in 1990 when the Chugach lumber mill opens. Other harbor expansion activities and a possible expansion of the prison provide additional sources of growth for Seward's economy.

Homer's Recovery Follows Closely Behind Seward's

Unlike Seward, Homer suffered from major employment losses during the statewide recession of 1986-1988. But by 1988 Homer's economy was beginning to make a comeback. (See Table 4 and Figure 4.) The improved health of the area's tourism, fishing, and construction industries have made this possible.

Construction's big boost came from Bradley Lake, whose peak work force was 327 in 1989; it may see a higher employment level in 1990. A few other construction projects infused some life into this industry. Work on the area's dock and sewer system provided additional employment opportunities. The dock and sewer may provide more long-term infrastructure development which will attract shippers and fishing industry interests. An example of this is the decision by Ocean Trawl to home port its bottom fishing fleet in Homer.

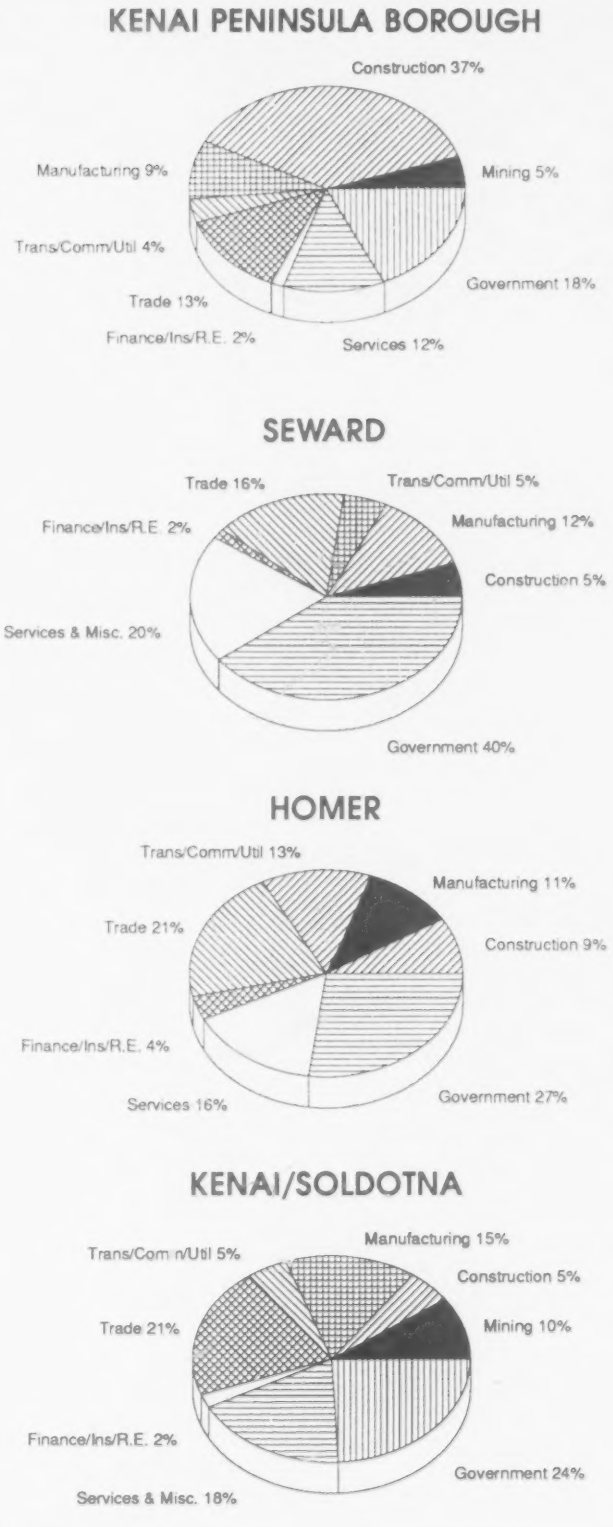
The strong salmon harvests and prices have been good to Homer. Its large tourism industry has remained healthy and by many indicators has continued to expand. Homer's biggest problem in 1989 was that it could not accommodate all of the tourists because so many hotel rooms were filled with spill workers. In addition to a lack of hotel rooms, there was a shortage of space on fish and sightseeing charters because skippers and boats were working on the more lucrative oil spill. There is some concern that this lack of service might have some longer term implications.

The Central Peninsula's Economy Heals More Slowly

The Kenai-Soldotna area's economy was the hardest hit on the Peninsula during the recession — almost 1,100 jobs were lost — and it has also been the slowest to recover. An excess of residential and commercial real estate remains on the market although there are signs that this sector is beginning to show life. A rebound in the fishing industry, a stabilized oil industry, good tourism seasons, and a healthy public sector is lifting the area's economy out of its 1987 nadir. Employment began to grow again in 1988 and continued on this path in 1989-albeit slower than the remainder of the Peninsula. (See Table 5 and Figure 4). The Central Peninsula got a boost from the oil spill, but it was not nearly as large as in the Peninsula's other communities.

Figure 4

Kenai Peninsula Employment by Area — 1988



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Table 5

Kenai/Soldotna Employment by Industry 1987-1989

	1987 Annual Average	1988 Annual Average	Percent Change 1987-1988	6 Month Average 1988	6 Month Average 1989	Percent Change 1988-1989
Nonag. Wage & Salary	7,483	7,521	0.5%	6,859	7,809	13.8%
Mining	687	740	7.7	713	677	-5.1
Construction	421	389	-7.6	319	413	29.5
Manufacturing	1,042	1,151	10.5	780	949	21.7
Food & Kindred Products	534	662	24.0	288	314	9.0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	347	352	1.4	327	442	35.2
Trade	1,622	1,543	-4.9	1,512	1,537	1.7
Wholesale	291	312	7.2	301	284	-5.6
Retail	1,331	1,232	-7.4	1,211	1,254	3.6
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	191	164	-14.1	158	168	6.3
Services & Misc.	1,319	1,358	3.0	1,216	1,604	31.9
Government	1,854	1,824	-1.6	1,834	2,019	10.1
Federal	107	124	15.9	115	133	15.7
State	543	566	4.2	537	569	6.0
Local	1,205	1,134	-5.9	1,182	1,317	11.4

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Summary: A Diverse And Sound Economy on the Kenai Peninsula

The Kenai Peninsula's economy pulled itself out of the doldrums in late 1988 and grew quite vigorously in 1989. Oil spill cleanup activity contributed to 1989's strength, but the Peninsula's economy would have made headway nevertheless.

The Peninsula's economic strength comes from its diversity. Almost all of its industries contributed to the Peninsula's improved economic outlook. Fishing provided a big boost with two good back-to-back salmon seasons. Probably the most pleasant economic surprise was that tourism remained robust in spite of the oil spill.

Even the Peninsula's construction industry exhibited some new life. There was little or no residential or commercial activity but public construction, led by construction of the Bradley Lake hydroelectric project, provided opportunities for the construction work force.

And timber, a newly-emerging industry on the Peninsula, is helping to further diversify the economy and provide new economic opportunities.

All the main communities are sharing in the area's improved economic outlook. Seward leads the pack in growth and vitality. Homer is not far behind. The Kenai-Soldotna area economy is not as robust, although it too is managing to make progress.

Next year's cleanup effort will not match 1989's, so the Peninsula's economy won't match this year's levels. But, because the economic activity generated by the cleanup was an aberration, 1989 provides a poor benchmark. If it is possible to visualize the area's economy minus the effects of the oil spill, it appears that the Kenai Peninsula's traditional industries and some new emerging ones will remain healthy and prosper in 1990.

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December is 15th Month of Growth

by Holly Stinson

As the nation entered its eighth consecutive year of expansion in December, Alaska marked its fifteenth straight month of over the year employment growth. (See Table 1.) Every industry except manufacturing had more jobs compared to December 1988. And every region enjoyed growth, ranging from 2.5% in Southeast to 6.6% in Northern.

Gulf Coast Employment Equalled Previous Peak

The Gulf Coast matched a record high for December employment; it reached the same level in December 1984. Jobs in retail trade and services were at a monthly high for the decade in December 1989. In the spotlight during December was one part of the Gulf Coast region — Cook Inlet. There the Mt. Redoubt volcano rumbled to life on December 14, spewing ash into the air. Several eruptions caused two distinct economic impacts: they curtailed air traffic and oil production.

Volcanic Eruptions Affected Oil Industry in Gulf Coast

Fears that volcanic eruptions would flood the Drift River oil terminal prompted closure of the facility and draining of the storage tanks. In turn, eight wells were forced to shut down since they had nowhere to store crude oil. However, many operators were hoping to find alternative tasks for their employees rather than lay them off. The real worry was that a shutdown might shorten the life of the oil field, costing an eventual loss of jobs on the Kenai Peninsula.

While the production side of the oil and gas industry on the Kenai was experiencing problems, the refineries

Table 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work — Alaska

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	Changes from: 11/89	Changes from: 12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	214,200	216,300	207,100	-2,100	7,100
Mining	10,100	10,400	9,300	-300	800
Construction	7,400	8,500	6,700	-1,100	700
Manufacturing	10,800	11,600	10,900	-800	-100
Seafood Processing	4,000	4,400	4,200	-400	-200
Lumber & Paper Products	3,300	3,800	3,400	-500	-100
All Other Manufacturing	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	17,700	17,700	16,800	0	900
Trucking & Warehousing	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Water Transportation	1,400	1,400	1,000	0	400
Air Transportation	5,700	5,700	5,300	0	400
Communications	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
All Other Transportation	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	100
Trade	43,800	43,600	42,400	200	1,400
Wholesale	7,600	7,800	7,400	-200	200
Retail	36,200	35,800	35,000	400	1,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	6,100	5,800	5,600	300	500
Food Stores	6,400	6,300	6,100	100	300
Eating & Drinking Places	12,300	12,400	12,200	-100	100
All Other Retail	11,400	11,300	11,100	100	300
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	10,400	10,500	10,400	-100	0
Services	43,800	43,800	42,400	0	1,400
Hotels & Other Lodging	4,300	4,300	4,000	0	300
Government	70,200	70,200	68,200	0	2,000
Federal	18,300	17,900	18,000	400	300
State	21,100	21,400	20,000	-300	1,100
Local	30,800	30,900	30,200	-100	600

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1988

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Anchorage Borough

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	104,150	104,500	100,300	-350	3,850
Mining	3,650	3,650	3,500	0	150
Construction	3,500	3,950	3,250	-450	250
Manufacturing	2,150	2,200	1,950	-50	200
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	9,700	9,750	9,000	-50	700
Trucking & Warehousing	1,400	1,400	1,500	0	-100
Water Transportation	700	700	300	0	400
Air Transportation	3,450	3,500	3,200	-50	250
Communications	1,800	1,800	1,750	0	50
All Other Transportation	2,350	2,350	2,250	0	100
Trade	25,900	25,900	24,750	0	1,150
Wholesale	5,850	5,900	5,800	-50	50
Retail	20,050	20,000	18,950	50	1,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,950	2,900	2,800	50	150
Food Stores	3,100	3,100	2,800	0	300
Eating & Drinking Places	7,600	7,600	7,500	0	100
All Other Retail	6,400	6,400	5,850	0	550
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,000	7,150	0	-150
Services	25,700	25,700	24,450	0	1,250
Government	26,550	26,350	26,250	200	300
Federal	10,400	10,200	10,400	200	0
State	7,650	7,700	7,300	-50	350
Local	8,500	8,450	8,550	50	-50

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	25,500	25,800	24,750	-300	750
Mining	150	150	100	0	50
Construction	1,150	1,400	1,050	-250	100
Manufacturing	550	600	550	-50	0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	1,750	1,750	1,800	0	-50
Trucking & Warehousing	400	400	400	0	0
Air Transportation	300	300	300	0	0
All Other Transportation	1,050	1,050	1,100	0	-50
Trade	5,700	5,700	5,450	0	250
Wholesale	700	750	650	-50	50
Retail	5,000	4,950	4,800	50	200
Food Stores	800	800	750	0	50
All Other Retail	4,200	4,150	4,050	50	150
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	750	800	750	-50	0
Services	5,600	5,600	5,500	0	100
Government	9,850	9,800	9,550	50	300
Federal	2,850	2,800	2,750	50	100
State	4,250	4,300	4,100	-50	150
Local	2,750	2,700	2,700	50	50

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	110,400	111,000	106,600	-600	3,800
Mining	3,650	3,700	3,500	-50	150
Construction	3,650	4,150	3,500	-500	150
Manufacturing	2,250	2,300	2,050	-50	200
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	10,350	10,400	9,600	-50	750
Trade	27,400	27,500	26,300	-100	1,100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,500	0	-100
Services	26,700	26,750	25,500	-50	1,200
Government	29,000	28,800	28,650	200	350

Interior Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,200	29,450	28,150	-250	1,050
Mining	250	250	250	0	0
Construction	1,200	1,450	1,100	-250	100
Manufacturing	550	600	550	-50	0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	2,100	2,150	2,050	-50	50
Trade	6,050	6,050	5,800	0	250
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	850	850	800	0	50
Services	6,050	6,050	5,950	0	100
Government	12,150	12,050	11,650	100	500

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1988 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

(cont. on page 13)

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,200	31,100	29,450	-900	750
Mining	300	300	200	0	100
Construction	950	1,050	950	-100	0
Manufacturing	3,900	4,500	4,150	-600	-250
Seafood Processing	600	650	600	-50	0
Lumber & Paper Prod.	3,050	3,600	3,250	-550	-200
All Other Manufacturing	250	250	300	0	-50
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	2,300	2,300	2,150	0	150
Trade	5,000	4,950	4,800	50	200
Wholesale	550	550	450	0	100
Retail	4,450	4,400	4,350	50	100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,050	1,000	-50	0
Services	4,900	4,950	4,600	-50	300
Government	11,850	12,000	11,600	-150	250
Federal	2,000	2,050	2,050	-50	-50
State	5,350	5,450	5,100	-100	250
Local	4,500	4,500	4,450	0	50

Southwest Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	12,450	12,800	11,700	-350	750
Seafood Processing	1,800	2,000	1,500	-200	300
All Other Private	4,300	4,400	4,050	-100	250
Government	6,350	6,400	6,150	-50	200
Federal	1,350	1,300	1,300	50	50
State	550	550	550	0	0
Local	4,450	4,550	4,300	-100	150

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	18,950	19,400	18,000	-450	950
Mining	850	850	850	0	0
Construction	750	900	700	-150	50
Manufacturing	2,200	2,350	2,200	-150	0
Seafood Processing	1,450	1,600	1,550	-150	-100
All Other Manufacturing	750	750	650	0	100
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	1,450	1,500	1,350	-50	100
Trade	3,650	3,700	3,550	-50	100
Wholesale	450	500	450	-50	0
Retail	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	500	500	550	0	-50
Services	3,400	3,400	3,150	0	250
Government	6,150	6,200	5,650	-50	500
Federal	600	600	550	0	50
State	1,950	2,000	1,750	-50	200
Local	3,600	3,600	3,350	0	250

Northern Region

	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	Changes from: 12/88	11/89	12/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,750	14,150	12,900	-400	850
Mining	5,100	5,350	4,750	-250	350
All Other Private	3,950	4,050	3,750	-100	200
Government	4,700	4,750	4,400	-50	300
Federal	350	350	350	0	0
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	4,000	4,050	3,700	-50	300

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1988 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1/2

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88
Mining	$1,088.90	$1,054.02	$1,111.32	47.2	46.7	49.0	$23.07	$22.57	$22.68
Construction	989.00	1,062.66	847.48	43.8	44.8	37.4	22.58	23.72	22.66
Manufacturing	564.98	572.24	585.43	39.9	40.7	42.3	14.16	14.06	13.84
Seafood Processing	362.85	374.01	368.84	41.0	41.1	44.6	8.85	9.10	8.27
Lumber & Paper Prod	733.10	754.11	703.08	43.2	44.1	40.5	16.97	17.10	17.36
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	588.76	598.18	555.97	34.9	36.1	35.3	16.87	16.57	15.75
Trade	385.10	381.38	370.61	34.6	33.9	33.6	11.13	11.25	11.03
Wholesale	548.49	535.43	519.23	38.9	38.3	37.9	14.10	13.98	13.70
Retail	334.32	332.47	324.29	33.2	32.5	32.3	10.07	10.23	10.04
Finance-Ins. & R.E	402.34	401.35	404.08	35.7	34.9	34.1	11.27	11.50	11.85

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1988

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

2/ Retail Trade excludes eating and drinking establishments.

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

and processing plants remained unaffected. Tesoro officials announced plans in December to build a new dock and shipping terminal at their refinery in Nikiski.

Volcanic Ash Affected Many Economic Sectors in Anchorage

Ash clouds from Mt. Redoubt played havoc with air traffic in and out of Anchorage. Airline officials diverted many flights from Anchorage for several days; some international lines decided to skip Anchorage altogether for weeks at a time. While the airport lost out on some revenue, its usage fees are readjusted each year to reflect any over- or under-charges from the previous year.

The firms who faced immediate losses were those that normally provide services to the airlines. A fuel consortium delivered 6.8 million gallons less in December 1989 than December 1988, a decrease of 16%. Hotels lost revenue when literally hundreds of rooms remained empty with no incoming flight crews to fill them. Caterers were particularly devastated — not only were they not selling meals to the airlines, they were also throwing out spoiled food. One firm was servicing 40% fewer flights than usual in January.

Some losses were offset by the additional passengers waiting for domestic flights who were stranded at the airport. While the food concessionaire lost money at the international terminal, the difference was more than made up for with increased revenues at the domestic terminal.

Just as the real worry in Kenai is the eventual loss of jobs in the oil industry, the real worry in Anchorage is that the volcanic eruptions might hasten the day when international flights don't include Anchorage on their route.

The rest of Anchorage's transportation industry continued to do well in December. It was the only sector in Anchorage to post the highest December employment of the decade. Anchorage's port handled a record amount of freight. Tonnage was up 23% or 2.3 million tons from 1988, and revenues were up 11%. Oil cleanup-related freight helped boost 1989's tonnage.

All But One Industry Gained Employment in Anchorage

Even while ash clouds were hindering many economic sectors, Anchorage enjoyed its first December of overall employment growth since 1985. Construction and manufacturing jobs followed their typical drop from November to December, but the only industry in Anchorage to show an over the year decrease in employment was finance, insurance and real estate (F.I.R.E.). (See Table 2.)

Although F.I.R.E. may not yet be gaining employment, the industry has received some good news recently.

Alaska's largest bank, National Bank of Alaska, headquartered in Anchorage, posted record profits for the year, more than the profits made during the mid-1980s boom years and almost four times more than last year.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation announced that 1989 was a turnaround year for the real estate market, with fewer foreclosures and more sales, especially in the second half of the year. Meanwhile, federal regulators closed two more of Anchorage's financial institutions. Although FIRE may lose additional employment in January from these latest two closures, many feel that the demise of Anchorage's only two savings and loan associations ends the chapter of financial calamity in Anchorage.

Fairbanks Economy Enjoyed a Good Holiday Season

The holiday season is usually the most active for retailers, and this December was no exception. Retail trade showed growth throughout the state. J.C. Penney reported sales gains in the double digits in both their Fairbanks and Anchorage stores, with even higher gains in catalog sales. Admittedly much of the increase in retail employment represents low-paying, part-time jobs that may disappear with the new year, but the necessity for additional jobs is still an indication of a strengthening economy.

Another indication of Fairbanks' growing economy was the scarcity of Christmas trees this holiday season. Although merchants ordered more than the previous year, they sold out of live trees a week before Christmas, and sales of artificial trees were brisk. An increased military population was given as the likely reason; another one might be that some residents have more cash this year as a result of working on the oil spill cleanup.

The increased population in Fairbanks is a fact. There were 2,200 more military and dependents stationed in Fairbanks this holiday season than in December 1988. Besides a run on Christmas trees, apartment vacancies are running at about half the 1988 rate, and several realtors reported difficulty finding rental houses for their clients.

Seafood, Timber Lagged Behind

The only drag on December's economy statewide was manufacturing, where lower over the year employment was caused by reduced employment in both seafood and wood processing. After suffering through lower employment during the oil spill, Gulf Coast processors still had fewer jobs in December. The pollock fishery in Gulf Coast closed unexpectedly early last spring, so the usual November and December catch was not available to process. In Southeast, employment in the timber industry was down both over the month and over the year.

Elsewhere, wood processing got a boost as Chugach Alaska's new $20 million sawmill in Seward geared up to begin processing wood chips in January. Chugach Alaska is purchasing timber near Ninilchik to assure a 10-year supply for their sawmill. A second shift is anticipated next fall, doubling the work force to 125. Small potatoes compared to the timber industry in Southeast, but important new jobs for the Seward area. Now that the industry is in place, there is potential for growth. There is already talk of a Korean corporation building a press-board plant near the new facility to utilize sawmill waste.

Construction and Mining Jobs Increased

Even the beleaguered construction industry, while showing typical seasonal employment loss over the month, showed an amazingly strong increase over the year of 10.4%. Projects on the North Slope, the Aleutians, and Bradley Lake near Homer are all contributing to growth.

December construction employment at Red Dog dropped to almost nothing as finishing touches were put on the facilities at the mine and port sites. While some miners have been employed for several months, mining operations actually began in December. Zinc was mined and processed, and the concentrate hauled to the port site for stockpiling. If ice patterns cooperate, Red Dog officials plan to ship the concentrate from mid-July to mid-October. Employment at Red Dog should reach 300 when fully operational. Mining employment at Red Dog is masked in employment tables since Red Dog is in the same (Northern) region as the 5,000 workers at Prudhoe Bay.

Unemployment Rate Increased 1%

In spite of strong over the year growth, December's unemployment rate increased a full percentage point to 7.9%. (See Table 4.) While the increase indicates the usual winter slowdown, unemployment was still much lower than December 1988.

Summary — December Ends a Year of Economic Rebound

The year 1989 closed with statewide employment growing for the 15th month in a row. Anchorage enjoyed an over the year growth rate of 3.8% in December, with the finance, insurance and real estate industry being the only one not showing increased employment.

In Gulf Coast, employment reached a December peak for the decade in spite of the economic havoc wreaked by Mt. Redoubt's volcanic eruptions. The economic havoc was not confined to the Kenai area; ash clouds drifting north also closed Anchorage airports.

In contrast to last year, Southeast employment grew the least of all the regions this December at 2.5%. A slowdown in manufacturing jobs was the only reason Southeast's employment growth wasn't higher.

Retail trade employment saw a seasonal rise as firms geared up for an excellent holiday season. Construction and mining employment also had over the year growth in December. If 1988 was the turnaround year for Alaska's latest recession, 1989 certainly closed on a strong note of rebound.

About the author:

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Table 4

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88	p/ 12/89	r/ 11/89	12/88
Alaska Statewide	239,815	237,741	239,120	18,935	16,413	20,671	7.9%	6.9%	8.6%	220,880	221,328	218,449
Anch.-MatSu Region	126,558	124,851	126,943	8,427	7,351	9,377	6.7	5.9	7.4	118,131	117,500	117,566
Anchorage Borough	112,634	111,082	112,282	6,319	5,519	7,235	5.6	5.0	6.4	106,315	105,563	105,047
MatSu Borough	13,924	13,769	14,661	2,108	1,832	2,142	15.1	13.3	14.6	11,816	11,937	12,519
Gulf Coast Region	25,329	25,307	24,508	3,057	2,767	2,971	12.1	10.9	12.1	22,272	22,540	21,537
Kenai Peninsula Borough	15,750	15,692	15,406	2,059	1,836	2,167	13.1	11.7	14.1	13,691	13,856	13,239
Kodiak Island Borough	5,700	5,795	5,318	565	598	353	9.9	10.3	6.6	5,135	5,197	4,965
Valdez-Cordova	3,879	3,820	3,784	433	333	451	11.2	8.7	11.9	3,446	3,487	3,333
Interior Region	34,347	33,891	34,903	3,361	2,931	4,246	9.8	8.6	12.2	30,986	30,960	30,657
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	29,488	29,161	30,077	2,654	2,349	3,527	9.0	8.1	11.7	26,834	26,812	26,550
Southeast Fairbanks	2,000	1,952	1,990	254	208	263	12.7	10.7	13.2	1,746	1,744	1,727
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,859	2,778	2,836	453	374	456	15.8	13.5	16.1	2,406	2,404	2,380
Northern Region	8,193	8,265	7,998	563	546	687	6.9	6.6	8.6	7,635	7,719	7,311
Nome	3,110	3,104	3,041	264	226	315	8.5	7.3	10.4	2,846	2,878	2,726
North Slope Borough	2,961	2,998	2,882	112	118	154	3.8	3.9	5.3	2,849	2,880	2,728
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,127	2,163	2,075	187	202	218	8.8	9.3	10.5	1,940	1,961	1,857
Southeast Region	34,015	33,903	33,726	2,977	2,292	2,849	8.8	6.8	8.4	31,038	31,611	30,877
Haines Borough	861	839	847	101	64	90	11.7	7.6	10.6	760	775	757
Juneau Borough	15,090	15,185	14,940	906	741	831	6.0	4.9	5.6	14,184	14,444	14,109
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,265	6,205	6,349	582	417	695	9.3	6.7	10.9	5,683	5,788	5,654
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,632	2,586	2,611	335	247	326	12.7	9.6	12.5	2,297	2,339	2,285
Sitka Borough	4,017	4,081	3,999	307	302	308	7.6	7.4	7.7	3,710	3,779	3,691
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,629	1,602	1,639	253	200	270	15.5	12.5	16.5	1,376	1,402	1,369
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,521	3,405	3,341	493	321	329	14.0	9.4	9.8	3,028	3,084	3,012
Southwest Region	11,368	11,524	11,042	550	526	541	4.8	4.6	4.9	10,818	10,998	10,501
Aleutian Islands	3,150	3,218	3,058	49	65	48	1.6	2.0	1.6	3,101	3,153	3,010
Bethel	4,287	4,347	4,194	216	208	242	5.0	4.8	5.8	4,071	4,139	3,952
Bristol Bay Borough	415	426	447	14	18	57	3.4	4.2	12.8	401	408	390
Dillingham	2,080	2,089	1,981	146	123	104	7.0	5.9	5.2	1,934	1,966	1,877
Wade Hampton	1,436	1,444	1,362	125	112	90	8.7	7.8	6.6	1,311	1,332	1,272

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: 1988

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

The Alaska Department of Labor will be presenting Alaska Micro Computer Occupation Information System (Micro-OIS) Training on the following dates:

Fairbanks	Anchorage	Juneau
March 15, 1990	April 11, 1990	Individual two-hour
9:00-1:00	1:00-5:00	training sessions can
Bunnell Building #119	Clarion Hotel	be arranged at
U of AK, Fairbanks	4800 Spenard Rd.	your convenience.

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited to thirty. There is no fee for training.

Alaska Micro-OIS is an IBM compatible hard disk personal computer program that gives administrators of education and training programs, vocational counselors, grant writers and others quick access to current Alaska occupational supply and demand information.

Alaska Micro-OIS offers users:

•Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)•Current Average Annual Openings in Occupation •Numbers of Persons Completing School Programs•Numbers of Alaska Employment Service Applicants and Numbers of Job Opening •Average Hourly Wages for Most Occupations

Call the Occupational Information staff (907) 465-4508 to register or for further information.